

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 290802Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1664

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ASEAN

SUBJECT: MARCOS REMARKS ON ASEAN

1. SUMMARY: AT SINGAPORE PRESS CONFERENCE ON JAN 28

MARCOS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS RE ASEAN, AS FILTERED THROUGH
GOP PRESS GUIDANCE AND REPLAYED IN MANILA: (A) PRIMARY
GOAL OF ASEAN IS ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND THIS IS BEST CURE
FOR INSURGENCY WHICH IS MAIN REGIONAL SECURITY THREAT,
(B) PHILIPPINES DOES NOT INTEND TO "PUSH" CLAIM TO
SABAH, (C) ASEAN MAY PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR SETTLEMENT OF
BORDER DISPUTES (ACCORDING TWO VERSIONS HE IMPLIED SABAH
IS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH DISPUTES, (D) HE HAS NOT HEARD
OF FOREIGN ATTENDANCE AT BALI SUMMIT AND THINKS
FOREIGN APPROACHES TO ASEAN MORE APPROPRIATE AFTER
ORGANIZATION "INTEGRATED". END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY MAIN POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT

MARCOS AT JAN 28 SINGAPORE PRESS CONFERENCE, AS FILTERED
THROUGH GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY (PNA) AND GUIDED MANILA
DAILIES:

2. FOREIGN ATTENDANCE AT BALI SUMMIT. MARCOS SAID HE
HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS PROPOSAL. HE SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER
FOR COUNTRIES "LIKE AUSTRALIA" TO WAIT UNTIL ASEAN IS
INTEGRATED AND ORGANIZED BEFORE MAKING APPROACH. (PRESS
VERSIONS MAKE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO JAPAN.)

3. SECURITY ISSUES. MARCOS SAID INSURGENCY IS PRINCIPAL
SECURITY THREAT, AND SAID ASEAN SHOULD SHARPEN TOOLS
SUCH AS ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION TO MEET IT. HE ENCOURAGED
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PRESENT FORMS OF COOPERATION
(JOINT PATROLLING, INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGES, ETC.) BUT, ACCORDING
TO TIMES JOURNAL SAID IT WOULD BE "PRESUMPTUOUS" TO
DISCUSS MILITARY PACTS. ("LET US NOT TALK ABOUT MILITARY
PACTS. EITHER WAY I AM THE LOSER.")

4. ASEAN "HIGH COUNCIL." MARCOS SAID ASEAN COULD BE
THE MECHANISM FOR SETTLEMENT OF BORDER DISPUTES (APPARENT
REFERENCE TO LIKELY SUMMIT ENDORSEMENT OF TREATY OF
PEACE AND AMITY AND "HIGH COUNCIL.")

5. SABAH CLAIM. ACCORDING VERSIONS IN ALL MANILA DAILIES,
MARCOS (WHEN QUERIED) SAID GOP CLAIM ON SABAH IS "AT A
STANDBY" OR "FROZEN." DAILY EXPRESS GIVES FOLLOWING
DIRECT QUOTE: "WE HAVE NOT PUSHED IT AND DO NOT
INTEND TO. WE HOPED THAT ASEAN WILL COME UP WITH A
MECHANISM UNDER WHICH BORDER DISPUTED CAN BE SETTLED."
(PNA AND MALACANANG PRESS RELEASE DID NOT MENTION
SABAH. BULLETIN TODAY VERSION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF DAILY
EXPRESS.)

6. ECONOMIC ISSUES. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT
"ECONOMIC STABILITY" IS ONE OF PRIMARY ASEAN OBJECTIVES
AND EMPHASIZED LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND
ELIMINATION OF INSURGENCY. ACCORDING PNA, MARCOS SAID
SUMMIT AGENDA INCLUDES "INDONESIA'S PROPOSALS FOR
PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS AS
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WELL AS PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S PROPOSAL ON FOOD AND
ENERGY" AND ASEAN-WIDE COOPERATION ON EXPORT PROMOTION.

7. FOR SINGAPORE: IF TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE
AVAILABLE WOULD APPRECIATE COPY. MARCOS HAS NOT MADE
DIRECT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SABAH FOR SOME TIME. MOST
OF HIS OTHER PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ASEAN STANDARD FARE,
ALTHOUGH IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS TRYING TO DOWNPLAY

CONTINUING DIFFERENCES WITH INDONESIA RE CONOMIC COOPERATION.

8. POSTSCRIPT. IN ARRIVAL REMARKS AT MANILA JAN 29
MARCOS ADDED LITTLE TO ABOVE. MAIN THRUST OF HIS ARRIVAL
COMMENTS WAS THAT RECENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF,
LEE, ONN, AND SUHARTO ROVING EMISSARY WIJOYO HAVE
RESULTED IN "APPROVED" AGENDA AND "FIRM WORKING GUIDE-
INES " FOR BALI SUMMIT. SULLIVAN

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